LAMBDA VALLEY

Vol. XVII No. 1 | MONTHLY | October 1985

Rep. Gerry Studds To Visit Lehigh Valley

Mass. Congressman who came out will address Lambda Center Benefit

The scene deserves to be recorded as a milestone of gay history. Indeed, it should be noted as an important event in American history. Never had anything like it ever happened before.

Never before had anything stood at the speaker's platform in the U.S. House of Representatives and declared his or her homosexuality. Such a startling revelation had never been made in so formal a setting by an elected official of the United States government.

But while TV cameras whirred and the world watched, that's exactly what U.S. Rep. Gerry E. Studds of Massachusetts did on July 14, 1983. Sixteen months later, he easily won re-election to his fifth term.

Now, absorbed by his congressional duties more than ever, Studds finds himself also sought by a new constituency that transcends the narrow political boundaries of Massachusetts' 10th District. That constituency is America's lesbians and gay men.

So it is with enthusiasm and pride that the Lehigh Valley's Lambda Center is able to announce that Rep. Studds has agreed to be the keynote speaker at its third annual fall fund raiser, scheduled for Friday, Nov. 15 at the Hotel Bethlehem.

The title of Studds' address is "Being Gay In A Conservative America." It will follow a banquet that begins at 7:30 p.m. and a cash bar reception that starts at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets cost $25 per person and must be purchased in advance by writing to the Lambda Center, Box 1656, Allentown 18105. No reservations will be accepted after Oct. 26.

Studds, a Democrat, has a reputation for being a self-confident, argumentative liberal with a knack for generating widespread support in a district that is predominately conservative. The 10th District includes Cape Cod and the Hanover and New Bedford areas of Massachusetts. Studds resides in Provincetown.

So it was not surprising that when the House Ethics Committee issued its report recommending that Studds be reprimanded for his affair with a 17-year-old male House page a decade earlier, the Congressman addressed the issue forthrightly.

"All members of Congress must cope with the challenge of initiating and maintaining a career in public office without destroying the ability to lead a meaningful and emotionally fulfilling private life," Studds told the House on that July day two years ago.

Then, in words that were not only carried by the nation's news media but will be recorded for all time in the Congressional Record, Studds continued: "It is not a simple task for any of us

continued on page 4

STONEWALL

28·30 n.10 st. allentown, pa. 18101. 215,432·0706

Lambda Valley Monthly Aims To Serve Gay Community

AN EXPERIMENT IN MORE THAN JUST JOURNALISM

This is the first issue of the Lambda Valley Monthly, an entirely new publication for lesbians and gay men. Expect to see it about once a month.

Some people will call it a magazine. Others will call it a newspaper or a newsletter. They'll all be correct.

But what this publication really is is an experiment, and not just an experiment in journalism. It is an experiment in the idea of gay community, and you are part of the experiment.

Lambda Valley Monthy is published by Le-Hi-Ho, the region's oldest gay organization. Its board of directors decided last spring to discontinue its own membership newsletter and to organize a publication to service the entire gay community. This is the first attempt.

Lambda Valley Monthly is not directly affiliated with the Lambda Center, although much of what is printed here wil be about things that are happening there. But, then, it tends to be a busy place.

The Center is one of Lambda Valley Monthly's paid advertisers, and a copy will be mailed to each of its members as an additional benefit of membership. At least for now.

Lambda Valley Monthly will also be sent to members of Le-Hi-Ho, and it will be distributed widely throughout the community at bars, bookstores and friendly businesses.

It is intended to be informative, entertaining, educational and enlightening. It is hoped that in time it will even grow to be needed.

That's how you are part of the experiment.

But you can become part of the experiment in other ways as well. Lambda Valley Monthly needs to receive your comments and your suggestions. It needs to receive your advertising dollars.

It also needs your help. The volunteer staff of the Lambda Valley Monthly nmbers only a handful of people, so there's plenty of room for more. Writers are needed to cover assignments and to produce feature stories. Production people are needed to help with page design and paste-ups. And the circulation staff needs lots of extra hands to help with collection and distribution.

Sorry that we don't have a central telephone number, although you can probably always reach us, one way or another, through the Lambda Center. Otherwise, contact us by writing to the Lambda Valley Monthly, in care of Le-Hi-Ho, Box 1633, Allentown 18105.

LAMBDA VALLEY
MONTHLY

The Lambda Valley Monthly is published monthly by Le-Hi-Ho. It assumes no liability for errors beyond the printing of a retraction or corection.

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STUDDS (cont.)

to meet adequately the obligations of either public or private life, let alone both. But these challenges are made substantially more complex when one is, as am I, both an elected public official and gay."

The Ethics Committee that same day also voted to reprimand Rep. Daniel B. Crane of Illinois, who was accused at the same time of conducting a past affair with a female page. Crane later appeared at a press conference in tears and begged for forgiveness.

Studds, on the other hand, did not apologize for his conduct. Instead, he only admitted an "error of judgment." And, unlike Crane, who voted for his own censure, Tudds stood impassively in the well of the House, his hands clasped behind him, back to his colleagues, and, with simple dignity, voted "present."

Foreign policy and fishing interests have been the foundations of Studds' congressional career. For him, they have made a good combination. The work he has done on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee tends to assuage the conservatives, which gives him the political freedom to speak out against U.S. military adventures in places like Vietnam and El Salvador. And that tends to please the liberals.

Studds' most important legislative accomplishment was a bill he pushed through the Merchant Marine committee that exttended U.S. territorial waters to a 200-mile limit, a change that was hailed by the East Coast fishing industry. But other battles he has waged--such as his opposition to Reagan Administration plans to open up nearly a billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf to mineral leasing--has won he the warm embrace of environmental interests as well.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Studds has worked effectively to block military aid to the government of El Savador and has taken an

Sat. Oct. 26
Halloween Party

9p.m. - 2a.m.

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even-handed approach in dealing with the various disputant nations in the Middle East.

The revelations about his homosexuality did not create the kind of public scandal that some might have wanted. Naturally, it became something of an issue when he stood for re-election in 1984. But he finished with a remarkable 56 percent of the vote--in spite of the fact that the same voters the same day elected Republican Ronald Reagan in greater numbers than anywhere in Massachusetts.

Gerry Studds was born on Long Island, graduated from Yale University with degrees in American studies and history and took his first job in Washington as a foreign service officers with the U.S. State Department. In 1963, he joined the staff of the Kennedy White House.

A few years later, although still only 29, Studds decided to "retire" from Washington life and moved to New England where he took up teaching in Concord, N.H. But his retirement to academia didn't last long.

In 1968 he was drawn into Democrat Eugene McCarthy's New Hampshire presidential campaign and was elected a delegate to the party's national convention later that year.

Then, in 1970, he made his first run for the U.S. House of Representatives after moving back to Massachusetts, where he grew up. Although he narrowly lost that first bid for elective office, he won the seat the next time around in 1972--and every election since then.

"My sexual preference has nothing to do with y ability to do this job well or to do it badly," he said at one point during the censure upheaval. "I'm a good or bad congressman quite apart from my sexual preference."

About all that he may say more on Nov. 15, but few would dispute the basic fact: Gerry Studds is a good congressman.

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CENTER COLUMN

LOOKING TOWARD FALL

BY HUNTLY HAVERSTOCK

As one more hot summer fades into fall, the Lambda Center gets to welcome a new season. The past year has seen many important events, and hopefully the new year will see many more.

The biggest event the Center has planned for the fall is the combined cocktail party and banquet benefit to be held in the Hotel Bethlehem on Nov.15. The guest and featured speaker of the evening is Congresman Gerry Studds, who openly admitted his homosexuality in the House of Representatives in 1983. Details on his visit can be found in other parts of the newsletter.

We are indeed fortunate in having Congressman Studds come to the Lehigh Valley. As a well-known speaker, he is in demand by gay organizations nationwide. The fact that he was willing to come and help out the Lambda Center's benefit speaks well of his concern for the gay community.

But not everyone in the Lehigh Valley was happy with Congressman Studds' visit. When the board approached the Holiday Inn East, it denied the Center's offer to rent space there, fearful of the adverse publicity they felt might be associated with the event. The Hotel Bethlehem, however, proved to be more than willing to provide space for the event.

One thing for sure: The Congressman will have the chance to travel in style while here. Board member Michael has offered to act as chauffeur in his big Lincoln.

Of course, the visit of Congressman Studds is not the only thing that is happening this fall. Over the summer, the board has arranged for some internal improvements at the Center. Later this month, a pool table and a soda machine will be installed. These should improve the ecology of the Lambda Center and make it even more attractive for gatherings there.

But no organization can run on good intentions alone. It needs both volunteers and money. Some members of the gay community have contributed both. We thank them for it. But the truth is, the rent alone for the center takes quite a chunk of change. This just makes for less money for other things.

In order to make the center work, it will require us all to put our money on the line. At a time when the gay and lesbian community is under seige from the religious right and because of the fallout from a killer disease, we need to focus on what is really important to our lives.

By volunteering to help the Center in planning events or contributing part of your hard-earned income, you make a statement about what being lesbian or gay really means to you.

Throughout the year, this column will feature news about your Center and its board. I hope you will find it both enlightening and informative.

CENTER PICNIC CLOSES SUMMER

The Lambda Center closed out summer with a picnic at Hunsicker's Grove on Sept. 15 that was attended by 120 people. The weather was glorious, the sack races were spirited and the fellowship was plentiful.

An early-summer picnic sponsored by the Center on June 9 was attended by more than 250 people. Both have attracted lesbians and gay men from a wide area of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The picnics are part of the Lambda Center's on-going fund raising efforts.

A GRAND EVENT

3rd Annual Fall Fundraiser for the Lambda Center

An Evening With Congressman Gerry Studds "Being Gay in a Conservative America"

November 15, 1985 Hotel Bethlehem

Pre-banquet Reception: 6:30 p.m. (Cash Bar)

Banquet: 7:30 p.m.

Cost of the evening is $25 per person. Requests for tickets can be made by sending your check or money order for the full amount to the Lambda Center by October 26.

Please send _____ tickets at $25 per person for the 3rd Annual Fall Fundraiser to:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Ticket requests and monies due by October 26.

Choice of Entree: _____ Chicken Chasseur
_____ Brochette of Beef

_____Additional donation: $5 $10 $20 $50 $100 $250

_____Donation only; not requesting tickets

Make checks payable to the Lambda Center, Box 1656, Allentown, PA 18105

Lambda Center

P.O. Box 1656, Allentown, Pa. 18101

A GRAND EVENT

You are invited to be a part of a special evening on November 15, 1985, for the Lambda Center, the Lehigh Valley Lesbian and Gay Community Center. The Honorable Gerry Studds, the seventh term U.S. Congressman from the 10th District of Massachusetts, will speak on "Being Gay in a Conservative America" at the 3rd Annual Fall Fundraiser at the Hotel Bethlehem.

Congressman Studds is the only openly gay legislator currently serving in either the U.S. Senate or the U.S. House of Representatives! A member of the Democratic Party, Studds was reelected by landslide margins in 1984 in both the primary and general elections. He outpolled President Reagan, who received his highest margin in the state in the 10th District. He also serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. He has been a strong advocate for governmental increase in AIDS research and funding.

On being gay and a public official, Studds has said, "My sexual preference has nothing to do with my ability to do this job well or to do it badly. I'm a good or bad Congressman quite apart from my sexual preference."

The Lambda Center began operation in September 1984 in a renovated loft at 742 Hamilton Mall, Allentown. Its purpose is to provide a safe space where individuals and gay/lesbian organizations can gather for social, intellectual, and emotional growth. A gay HOTLINE provides information and referrals in addition to crisis intervention. Lectures on such topics as AIDS, legal issues facing gays and lesbians, lesbian mothering, are presented monthly. At the beginning of its second year, the Lambda Center Board of Directors plans an expansion of its services, the hiring of an executive director, full participation in the Lehigh Valley AIDS Task Force, and an increase in the number of counseling and support groups.

This special evening begins with a pre-banquet reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Candlelight Room and continues with dinner at 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom. A cash bar will be available at the pre-banquet reception. Cost of the evening is $25.00 per person. Requests for tickets can be made by sending the form below and your check or money order for the full amount to the Lambda Center by October 26th. Tickets are at a premium. Donations over and above the ticket price are appreciated and gladly accepted. (Dress attire, please.)

We look forward to seeing you on November 15th!

The Lambda Center Board of Directors

Please send me ____ tickets at $25.00 per person for the Lambda Center's 3rd Annual Fundrais

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Choice of entree: _____ Chicken Chasseur _____ Brochette of Beef

Lehigh Valley Lesbian & Gay Community Center

GAY & LESBIAN HOTLINE 433-5444

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 MCC Religious Service 7:30 HOTLINE 7-10pm 433-5444	2 LCC Religious Service 7:30	3 BOARD MEETING 7:30 pm	4 HOTLINE 7-10pm 433-5444	5
6 HOTLINE 7-10 433-5444	7 CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH 7:30pm	8 MCC Religious Service 7:30 HOTLINE 7-10pm 433-5444	9 LCC Religious Service 7:30	10	11 YOUNG ADULT GROUP 8-10pm HOTLINE 7-10pm 433-5444	12
13 HOTLINE 7-10 433-5444	14 CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH 7:30pm	15 MCC ANNIVERSARY MCC Religious Service 7:30 HOTLINE 7-10pm 433-5444	16 LCC Religious Service 7:30	17	18 HOTLINE 7-10pm 433-5444	19 DROP-IN CENTER REOPENS 2-5 pm
20 HOTLINE BUSINESS MEETING 4pm HOTLINE 7-10 433-5444	21 WOMEN's NIGHT 7:30 pm CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH 7:30pm	22 MCC Religious Service 7:30 HOTLINE 7-10pm 433-5444	23 LCC Religious Service 7:30	24	25 YOUNG ADULT GROUP 8-10pm HOTLINE 7-10pm 433-5444	26 DROP-IN CENTER 2-5 p.m.
27 LE-HI-HO 2-4 pm MEN's GROUP HALLOWEEN PARTY 6pm HOTLINE 7-10 433-5444	28 CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH 7:30pm	29 MCC Religious Service 7:30 HOTLINE 7-10pm 433-5444	30 LCC Religious Service 7:30	HALLOWEEN 31		

A Popular Column Finds A New Home

BY KIPPIE BRACKEN

This column first appeared in the Le-Hi-Ho Newsletter in September '84. The column was originally entitled "Womanews," but in keeping with our new format I'm considering changing the name to "Lambda Women." In all honesty, this name does not exactly thrill me, so if anyone has a better suggestion please send it in.

In the past this column has featured interviews with local women, book reviews, reports on agencies that provide services tothe lesbian community and other items of (I hope) interest. Your comments, suggestions and input are welcome and requested. Please address all corresponence to Kippie Bracken in care of this publication. Thank you.

Before I get into the feature article, here's something that may interest some readers....Ever wander into your local rental store and become depressed because the only erotica available is of the "Deep Throat" genre?? Well, your prayers have been answered. Tiger Rose Distributing has just announced the release of their very first video, "Erotic In Nautre," erotic video entertainment that is designed and created by-and-for Lesbians. For more information about this release and those to follow, write to Tiger Rose, P.O. Box 609, Cotati, CA 94928.

WOMEN'S NIGHT--AN UPDATE

A bus trip to Atlantic City, a weekend camping trip and a repeat of the very successfulBeirut Restaurant dinner party. These are just a few of many activities which are being considered for future "Women's Night" programs at the Lambda Center. Program coordinators are also looking towards the establishment of supportive and self-help services. A support group for couples and a "safe-house" for lesbians who are being abused by their lovers were just two of the many suggestions offered. "Women's Night" is held on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Special events such as the proposed bus trip or a recently held picnic are scheduled for weekends. Approximately 15-20 area women are actively involved in the program, which is currently the fastest growing activity sponsored by the Center.

But despitte the obvious success, several key organizers are expressing concerns for the future. "The way I see it," said one Lambda Center board member,

Younger lesbians, several of whom described the Center as "excruciatingly

dull" and "not very friendly," are noticeably absent from most activities. The program has also not attracted the many women who limit their socialization to an exclusive group of intimate friends. In an attempt to encourage these potential members, the Center is planning to install a pin-ball machine and a pool table. It is hoped that these two ever-popular recreations will aid in drawing more participants (of both sexes) into the membership. This gesture, although undeniably well-intentioned, is by no means a solution.

Local lesbians form as diversified a group of individuals as can be found in any major metropolitan area. Our sexuality does not recognize nor acknowledge any racial, ethnic or socio-economic boundaries. The diversifications are, in fact, so vast that one canot help but wonder if our one commonality: our lesbianism, is enough to bring us together as a community. Feminist politics and sisterhood aside, there are those in the Valley who are asking not only if we can overcome these differences but also, if we SHOULD.

Next Month: "This is Sisterhood????" A shocking report on how some local lesbians view the issues that divide us.

KEGLERS SCORE GAY TIME AS CENTERS' LEAGUE STARTS TO ROLL

16 Sign Up For Sunday Bowling

Only three or four of the people who assembled at Parkway Lanes on Sunday, Sept. 8 called themselves good bowlers. The rest said they hadn't been bowling in years.

"I have a ball at home somewhere, but I can't find it," one of the women announced as she waited for the games to begin.

Meanwhile, one of the men revealed that he had flunked one of those "Are You A Yuppie?" contests in the newspaper because he had to deduct points for owning a pair of bowling shoes--even though he had never before used them.

Another man, well known for his taste in clothes, vowed to go home if he had to wear one of those ugly bowling shirts.

So it was amid laughs and high spirits that the bowling league sponsored by the Lambda Center began its fall season last month.

There was also some determined bowling, too. Of the 13 people who turned out for that first week's games, no one scored less than 120 points. Not bad for a bunch of people who call themselves, for the most part, beginners.

A total of 16 people signed up for the league, which is just enough people for four teams. Although more people may join, they must do so by Oct. 6. Either show up at the bowling lanes by 4 p.m. that Sunday or call Michael at 432-8525 to tell him that you're interested.

League bowling runs for 32 weeks, until the last Sunday in April. There'll even be trophies at the end.

DRAG SHOW - OCT. 12
DANCERS- FEMALE - SAT. OCT. 5
MALE - TUES. OCT. 15
HALLOWEEN PARTY- FRI. NOV. 1

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VALLEY SEEN

GET A MASK AND PARTY

BY MICHAEL

Being my first attempt at journalism, with "BAR HOPPING" I hope to keep everyone abreast of the Valley Bar Scene. Together we'll explore upcoming events, changes, people, and happenings monthly. My friend Timbe has volunteered to help with personal observations in cutting wit and biting sarcasm. Beware!

On October 18th, Candida will be celebrating her 40th Birthday (again!), an appropriate way to kick off her "OLDIEST WEEKEND," with vintage music continuing through Sunday night. For those who drink shots, and have not witnessed firsthand how fast shots can disappear at the corner of 12th & Chew in Allentown, it will be a weekend not to be missed! (Nor believed!) CANDIDA'S HALLOWEEN PARTY will be Sunday, October 27th, with $1 cover and judging for "most original," "prettiest girl," and the "funniest." And who knows? Perhaps behind one of the masks we'll catch a fleeting glimpse of Claudia!

Now that Rho has come back to us from her intended sojourn to Florida, and many other completed jaunts terrorizing restaurant and bar owners coast-to-coast, we're going to see alot of changes at 2327 Hanover Avenue. The entire month of October, ROSEMARY'S will be sponsoring its FALL FUN-FEST. October 3rd will start off the month of festivities with "ROCK & ROLL" night; October 10th will feature "MOWTOWN;" October 27th "DANCE-PARTY;" October 24th "OLDIES;" culminating in the "HARVEST COSTUME BALL" on Halloween night. (And who was that attractive dark-haired lady being given a personal tour of Butch H.'s house not too long ago?)

The STONEWALL BAR, 28 N. 10th STreet, will be hard put in this writer's mind to top last month's WET JOCKEY SHORTS CONTEST. Myrna Louise was primped and primed to have her photograph taking (my apologies, I meant "taken with") the winner to appear in this column. But with the disappearance of those well-stuffed sheer shorts, so too went the winner. The most popular event of the year in the Valley gay scene will be occurring Friday, November 1st at the STONEWALL.

The WALL's HALLOWEEN PARTY, a $12 cover and OPEN BAR will set the stage for some of the most outrageous and bizarre happenings ever experienced. Come, participate and be judged "most original," "best drag," or "campiest."

The 13th STREET PUB, 130 South 13th Street, Easton, is forming a Gay Parents' Group, meeting one Sunday per month. For details, call 252-9213 after 4 p.m. The PUB will be presenting female dancer "Paula" on Saturday, October 5th, from 8 to 10 p.m., the "D" Troop drag and dance revue Saturday, October 12th, ($3 cover), and male dancer "Jack" Tuesday, October 15th from 10 until midnight. The PUB's HALLOWEEN PARTY will be held Friday, November 1st. (No cover!) While you're in Easton, try one of Madeline's bleu cheese burgers and converse with the cook, one of the friendliest people in the Valley.

The newest addition to Valley nightlife is the SILHOUETTE LOUNGE, 524 West Berwick Street, Easton. The new owners have given "old Millie's" quite a facelift and still had enough cash left over for Lora and Evie to go traipsing about England. (Must be nice!) With great cheese sticks, and a Sex Trivia machine that showed this writer he doesn't know even half of what he thought he knew, the SILHOUETTE provides a comfortable place to meet in an inviting

warm atmosphere. Their HALLOWEEN PARTY will be held Saturday, October 26th, with tickets $3 in advance, and $3.50 at the door. A free buffet will be provided, and judging in the following categories: "ugliest," "funniest," "most unusual," and "best couple."

(Having learned something new while playing the Trivia machine, I am personally offering a $10 gift certificate to drink at any one of the bars mentioned in this column to the first person who calls me at 432-8525 after 1 p.m. Thursday, October 10th, and can correctly define the word "Tribadism.")

Spend an afternoon in the Poconos and enjoy Mother Nature's spectacular Fall Foliage Festival, then party at Altieri's BLUE BUGLE, 724 Main Street, Stroudsburg. Saturday, October 12th, is "OKTOBERFEST" with German music and food in a German atmosphere, with German host Hans and his partner David. Saturday, October 26th, is the BLUE BUGLE's HALLOWEEN PARTY, with door prizes and judging for "best costume," "best drag," and "funniest."

Last, but certainly not least on the line-up is RAINBOW MOUNTAIN, Mt. Nebo Drive, Marshalls Creek. The Valley's only full resort, with over night accomodations and first class dining in addition to an Olympic-sized pool overlooking the Valley, the MOUNTAIN has planned a "SLEAZE BALL" for Saturday, November 2nd. (GeorgeAnne, where are you?) The price is $15 in advance, $20 at the door. Dressed or undressed, enjoy OPEN BAR on all bar brand liquors and domestic beer.

This Fall Season is shaping up to be one of the best yet! I hope to see you all there.

One more thing before I sign off. (Sorry Dina, I almost forgot to mention it.) CANDIDA is sponsoring a contest; all are invited to participate. Whoever can gues the correct number of spots on the ceiling gets to help repaint it!

Thank you Timbe for your help. I'll be seeing you all again next month.

COME

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ALL PEOPLE

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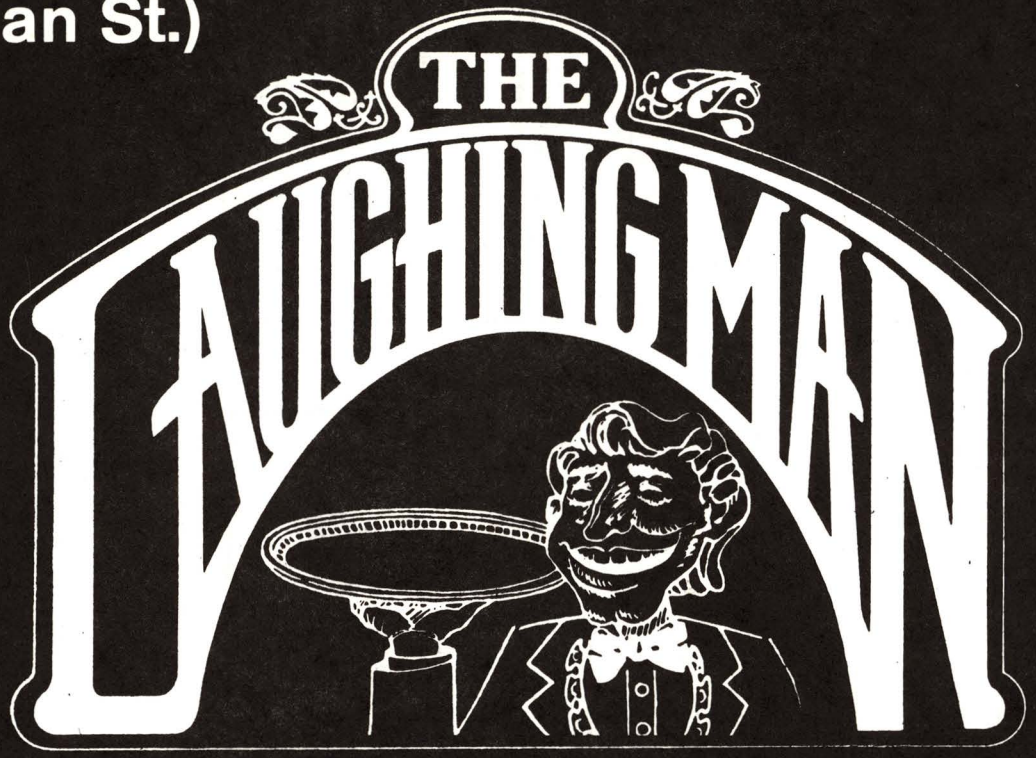

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